

Announcement of an effort to restore water quality in North Fork Holston River in Saltville, Virginia

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Friends Community Church at 145 Palmer Avenue in Saltville, Virginia, on July 14, 2005 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing the start of a study to restore water quality, a public comment opportunity, and public meeting.

**MEETING DESCRIPTION:** First public meeting on a study to restore water quality

**DESCRIPTION OF STUDY:** DEQ is working to identify sources of pollutants that decrease the number and variety of aquatic organisms in the waters of the North Fork Holston River just downstream of Saltville in Smyth County and Washington County Virginia.

The 4.8 mile long "impaired" stream segment of North Fork Holston River begins at the confluence with Robertson Branch in Saltville and extends downstream to Tumbling Creek. The stream is impaired for the *Aquatic Life Use*- violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms.

During the study, DEQ will develop a total maximum daily load, or a TMDL, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

**HOW A DECISION IS MADE:** The development of a TMDL includes a public comment period, including public meetings. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

**HOW TO COMMENT:** DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

**TO REVIEW FACT SHEETS:** Fact sheets are available on the impaired waters from the contacts below or on the DEQ web site at [www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl).

**CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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